Declaration of the 2016 Asia-Pacific ICH NGO Conference

Achieving Sustainable Development Goals through Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage

3-5 November 2016 | Jeonju, Republic of Korea

We, the participants of the 2016 Asia-Pacific ICH NGO Conference, held in Jeonju, Republic of Korea, from 3 to 5 November 2016 call on NGOs and other concerned stakeholders to strengthen our collective commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH).

RECALLING the United Nations’ 2030 Agenda for the Sustainable Development to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all,

REAFFIRMING our commitment to implement ICH safeguarding measures based on the spirit of the UNESCO 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage,

EXPRESSING our appreciation of UNESCO and its Regional and Field Offices, Category 2 Centers, NGOs, and other organizations and institutions dedicated to achieving the SDGs through safeguarding ICH,

We, the participants,

1. COMMEND the successful organization of the Conference and the meaningful discussions during the three-day’s of focused sessions;

2. APPRECIATE each of the group sessions for discussing the important roles of NGOs under different themes: forming discourse on ICH safeguarding; education and awareness raising; urban renewal, community development; cultural industry, and sustainable tourism;

3. RECALL the new chapter of the Operational Directives on Implementation of the 2003 Convention titled Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Development at the National Level, adopted at the Sixth General Assembly of the State Parties to the 2003 Convention;

4. UNDERLINE the Ethical Principles for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage, endorsed at the Tenth Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of the 2003 Convention;

5. REAFFIRM the strong contribution of ICH to sustainable development through the various presented case studies, demonstration projects and activities of the participating NGOs;

6. STRESS the undisputed role of ICH to achieve the SDGs, especially for poverty alleviation, quality education, gender equality, social, environmental and economic well-being, decent work, resilient cities, and peaceful and inclusive societies;
7. **COMMIT** ourselves to continuing our ICH safeguarding activities for sustainable development and maintaining our networks to share our experiences and impact of activities to create a collaborative environment;

8. **CALL UPON** other NGOs and concerned stakeholders in the Asia-Pacific region to participate in our network, and for respective governments to participate and support our network;

9. **EXPRESS** our wish to continue the Conference in the Asia-Pacific region preferably every two years;

10. **Finally CONVEY** our sincere appreciation to the host of the Conference, ICHCAP and the co-organizers of the Conference; namely, the Center for Intangible Culture Studies; Jeonju Cultural Foundation; Jeonju Social Economy & Urban Regeneration Support Center; Korea Traditional Culture Center, for hosting and organizing the Conference; the ICH NGO Forum for its international work and collaboration for ICH; the Cultural Heritage Administration and Jeonju City for their support.

This declaration is hereby adopted by the participants of the 2016 Asia-Pacific ICH NGO Conference on 5 November 2016 in Jeonju, Republic of Korea.